

Clinton administration to accept a balanced budget in 2002, Medicare reform and modest reductions in taxation—all of them being goals which Mr. Clinton also proclaimed at various times. There is a sharp and continuing dispute about the details, of course.

An objective view of the situation should lead to the conclusion that the contending parties are equally accountable for the failure to reach an agreement, whatever the arguments.

Why should the federal workers only blame Newt when it is obvious that the president could have avoided the shutdown by accepting a compromise? Of course, it would not be seemly for them to be parading in front of the White House with banners calling for Bill, their boss, to give in to Capitol Hill.

Popular opinion, fed by sad stories of the lives disrupted momentarily by the partial federal shutdown, seems to reflect the idea that all the blame should be heaped on Newt and his cohorts. Who elected them, anyway? Only a majority of the voters in their districts, which is as good a claim to legitimate power as the president himself has.

A more presidential president, one willing to acknowledge that there is wisdom on the east end of Pennsylvania Avenue, would have found a way to end this impasse long before it became so disruptive.

TRIBUTE TO A HALF-CENTURY OF HERBLOCK—POLITICAL CAR- TOONIST AND POLITICAL CON- SCIENCE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday the Washington Post dedicated the Outlook Section of the newspaper to its outstanding editorial cartoonist, Herb Block—Herblock—in appropriate recognition of his 50 years of cartooning for the Post. In 1946 Herb accepted the offer to join the Washington Post, and for the past half-century, we have been blessed or—at least in the view of some—cursed with his wit, his humor, and his principles.

The selection of his cartoons from the past 50 years, which was included in the Outlook Section, brought back memories of the high points and low points of the political history of our Nation. Looking through these cartoons has brought Herb's wonderful gift into dramatic perspective for me. With a few well drawn lines and a few well chosen words, he has the ability to convey the essence of an entire complex political issue and highlight the absurdities and inconsistencies.

But the laughter is never at the expense of the message. This is not humor for the sake of humor, but wit with a point. I admire Herb's humor, but even more I admire his principles. His cartoons always reflect his strongly held point of view, and I must say that most of the time I am in perfect agreement with him.

Mr. Speaker, a few years ago when I was chairman of the House subcommittee conducting the investigation of fraud and mismanagement at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Herb did a number of delightful and insightful cartoons about the HUD scandal. At that time, I invited Herb to join me for lunch at the Member's dining room. We spent a delightful hour or more talking about his

background and highlights of his career. He mentioned then that he generally avoids spending time with those of us whom he cartoons, but I was delighted that he made an exception for me that day. It was an engaging experience that I still remember fondly.

Mr. Speaker, we in the Congress seem to find ourselves the frequent focus of Herb's sharp wit and his sharper pen. This past year, and particularly these past 19 days of Government shutdown, have provided him with abundant material, which he has exploited with this typical skill. In the past few days, as well as throughout the last half-century, Herb's humor and his principled point of view are important in keeping political issues in perspective. If this were Japan, I am certain that Herblock would be officially declared a "National Treasure." He is a national treasure, and I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to him for his contribution to our national political debate and to the strength of our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, Kate Graham—the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Washington Post Co. who has had extensive experience and frequent exasperation with Herb—paid homage to Herblock in a wonderful column in Sunday's Outlook. I ask that her column be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to read it.

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 31, 1995]

A TIGER BY THE TAIL—THE TURBULENT
PLEASURES OF LIFE WITH HERB

(By Katharine Graham)

My mother had a saying: "Any man worth marrying is impossible to live with." Why does this make me think of my glorious life and times with Herblock, one of the greatest ornaments to The Post and to all of journalism? Underneath his genius for cartooning and writing lies a modest, sweet, aw-shucks personality. Underneath that lies a layer of iron and steel. For the publishers and editors over him—or under him, as it would be more accurate to say—it's like having a tiger by the tail.

Herb started out in his hometown of Chicago doing editorial cartoons for the Chicago Daily News in 1929. Four years later he became a syndicated editorial cartoonist for the Newspaper Enterprise Association Service in Cleveland, where he won the first of his three Pulitzer Prizes.

When World War II came along, Herb went into the Army and produced and edited a feature service for Army newspapers. After the war, Herb was passing through Washington. A chance encounter led to a meeting with my father, Eugene Meyer, who happened to be desperately looking for a cartoonist for The Post. Herb provided a few samples and in return, my father gave Herb a subscription to the paper. "So you can see how you like us," my father explained.

Evidently the attraction was mutual. Herb arrived at The Post the same week that my husband, Phil Graham, arrived in January of 1946. The extraordinary quality of Herb's eye, his insights and sharp comments immediately stood out. When The Post was struggling for its existence, Herb was one of its major assets, as he has been throughout his 50 years here. The Post and Herblock are forever intertwined. If The Post is his forum, he helped create it. And he has been its shining light.

Herb fought for and earned a unique position at the paper: one of complete independence of anybody and anything. Journalistic enterprises run best when writers and editors have a lot of autonomy. But Herb's case is extreme. And because he's a genius, it works.

Since he arrived at The Post, five editors and five publishers all have learned a car-

dinal rule: Don't mess with Herb. He's just as tough within the confines of The Post as he is in the political world outside.

Herb's independence evolved gradually. In the early years, he made several sketches for the day's cartoon and dutifully submitted them to the editorial page editor to choose. When the editor was away, Herb began showing them to a preferred group of reporters and editorial writers whose opinions he valued. Gradually, the editor's role was dropped altogether.

Of course, this has produced a few tense moments. In 1952, during the Eisenhower-Stevenson campaign, The Post endorsed Ike, but Herb supported Stevenson and continued to jab away at the general. Which point of view do you think made the bigger impression with readers? Finally, Herb's cartoon was dropped by the paper for the last days of the campaign. Since his work continued to be syndicated in other papers, The Post looked silly. The Washington Daily News ran a headline: "Where's Mr. Block? One of D.C.'s Top Drawers Is Missing."

Even earlier, Phil protested Herb's cartoons on Congress. He feared they made The Post look as though it was ridiculing and undermining the strength of that institution. "I think we should put that little 'Congress' character back in the ink bottle," Phil wrote.

Back came three eloquent pages from Herb including, "When a majority of Congress fails to act, or acts badly, I think it's fair to be critical of Congress."

I too sometimes opened the paper and gasped at Herb's cartoons, particularly during Watergate when we were so embattled on all fronts. But I had learned not to interfere. And anyway, most of the time we're on the same wavelength. Even when we aren't, I should confess, I generally find myself laughing uproariously at the cartoon that has caused my apprehension. In this sense, Herb always wins.

Herb studies events and reacts to them in his own way. His point of view is liberal, and his instincts are common-sensical. But his common sense has a special twist. As economist Ken Galbraith once put it: "While Herb appreciates virtue, his real interest is in awfulness." His mind turns to the rascals, the phonies and the frauds. He has pursued them for 50 years without ever flagging except for time taken off for a couple of heart attacks and operations. But these ordeals were probably nothing compared with the distress he has caused a number of other people, such as President Nixon and Sen. Joseph McCarthy. It was Herb who is said to have coined the term McCarthyism, using it on a tar barrel.

Herb's unique ability to crystalize what is right—or, more likely, wrong—about an issue or a person has often influenced the course of events in Washington. Naturally, the strength and impact of his cartoons often provoke strong reactions from readers who disagree. Part of the job of Post publishers is to defend Herb and the paper from these reactions.

"Since Herblock is the most gifted political cartoonist of our times," Phil wrote one reader, "by definition he therefore cannot be an organization man. Being an old reactionary and individualist, I am all for people who simply have to be individualistic. . . . I think—though it will amaze you—that Herblock probably considers himself frustrated and suffocated by our policy."

I too have written my share of explanatory letters. One, in 1989, said that to cartoon is to caricature, and people who are very gifted at cartooning sometimes offend. "Most of the time, however, cartoons illuminate or amuse," the letter went on to say. I doubt the irate reader was completely satisfied, but the statement, I believe, is true.

As Herb begins his second 50 years at The Post, he has lost none of his dynamic energy and original insight. He is going as strong as ever and, as a matter of fact, has just published his 12th book. It's about his cat Bella and, as usual, it's just wonderful. Herb does caricature the cat, but I don't think Don Graham and Meg Greenfield will hear from her in protest.

In fact, Bella has proven she's more than a match for Herb. For example, she is known to complain about Herb's legendary propensity to live in a rat's nest of old newspapers and magazines, discarded clothes and paint brushes and pencils. "We cats are neat," Bella is alleged to have said, while frowning on those who are not.

Now maybe Herb knows what it feels like to have a cat by the tail. It's a privilege, a pleasure and an honor we all have loved and treasured.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO, CA

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 1996

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today in celebration of San Diego's outstanding institutions of higher learning. In 1996, National University will celebrate its 25th anniversary. The year-long celebration will officially commence with an academic assembly on Thursday, January 26, 1996.

National University is a nonprofit, accredited institution of higher learning that specializes in meeting the educational needs of adult learners in California. National University is the only university in California offering a unique, one-course-per-month format. The university offers 45 degree programs and a number of teacher credential programs, and its expanding Department of Continuing Education and Educational Services provides nonacademic, customized training and professional development programs to meet the specific objectives of businesses throughout the state. National has a full-time enrollment of approximately 7,800 and 101 full-time faculty members.

The estimated 45,000 alumni of National University have reason to be proud of their affiliation with the university. National has been named one of the best universities in the western United States for two consecutive years by U.S. News and World Report. In 1995 the university received one of six nationwide Creative Restructuring in Higher Education Special Merit Awards from the American Association of University Administrators. Last year, the American Association of University Administrators recognized National's accomplishments through a special award presented at its annual convention. The university also received a Total Excellence in Management Award from the San Diego Business Journal for the excellence of its management.

The university has developed its tone and direction for the next 5 years in "NU 2000." This plan represents a year of discussion and formulation by the people at National. The main objective is to create the premier institution for adult learners by the year 2000. With the continued dedication of its students, faculty, and administrators, the excellent National University will continue maturing into the visionary institution it aspires to be.

NEW YORK CITY VETERANS ARE ANGRY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 1996

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, having just returned from the Christmas recess, I can report that the veterans of New York City are angry. They are angry because the VA budget has been slashed. They are angry because the Government shutdown is affecting services. They are angry because they believe that after all the sacrifices they and their families have made for our country, our Nation is turning its back on them.

I would like to submit for the record a statement put out on December 26, 1995 by Col. Bernard Wray and the United War Veterans Council of New York County. It is indeed sobering reading for those of us who support our Nation's veterans.

NEW YORK VETERANS' COMMUNITY OUTRAGED
BY UNNEEDED REDUCTION IN VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION SERVICES TO VETERANS IN NEED!

The United War Veterans' Council of New York County which was first incorporated by Union Veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic in New York County, in 1895, to help aging Civil War Veterans, and which now consists of fifty-five separate Veterans and Patriotic organizations, issues this distress call to all concerned members of the Veterans' Community, and to their families and friends:

Never, during the past 100 years have war veterans, men and women, been treated with the disdain and disrespect that we see in this run-away session of Congress. Now is the time for our 16 million War Veterans and their families to demand full restoration of all VA services, and full restoration to their jobs of all VA service providers!

It should be noted by all veterans, that the House of Representatives cut the VA allocation requested by the President by one billion dollars. This is one twentieth of the 20 billion dollars appropriated by this session of Congress for twenty B-2 bombers, which the Air Force does not even want or need in its aircraft stock.

Now is the Time for all Veterans to step forward in all 435 Congressional Districts, and to spell out in the clearest terms, to all Representatives, regardless of party affiliation, that they will be held to strict accountability at the 1996 elections, should they break faith with the Veterans' community. Full restoration of Veterans' Benefits and Veterans' Health Care is non-negotiable. It was a Contract bought and paid for with the blood, sweat and tears of millions of American Veterans.

Meanwhile, we call for all members of Congress, and their staffs to agree to receive no further pay, while the Veterans and their service providers are being asked to make sacrifices. We also call upon Corporate America to share in the sacrifices of the War

Veterans of America on this the 50th Anniversary of Victory in World War II.
Semper Fi'

IN HONOR OF EL MUNDO—CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor El Mundo Hispanoamericano, celebrating 5 years of distinguished and reliable reporting and community service. El Mundo was founded in 1990 with a commitment to report on all aspects of the Hispanic community throughout New Jersey.

El Mundo Hispanoamericano commemorated its anniversary on Wednesday, December 20, 1995. For 5 years, El Mundo has been providing the Hispanic community with vital information about the world around them and their native lands. El Mundo prides itself as an advocate for the Hispanic community, defending issues and interests that are of importance to the people.

They have covered the good news and the bad news. When municipal or State services were not up to par, they wrote about it. When government and individuals did something positive for the community, they wrote about it too. They have served as an integral link between the Government and the community.

Even though, the founders, Ney Bravo and his family, are Ecuadoran, El Mundo reports on all of Latin America. The newspaper covers issues of concern to all immigrants from the Caribbean, Central, and South America. It does so with sensitivity and care. Ethnic newspapers like El Mundo provide a vital source of information to the Hispanic community about their native lands. Such newspapers help a community establish themselves in this great Nation.

It is an honor to recognize El Mundo, a newspaper that provides accurate news coverage to the people I represent. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring El Mundo for its faithful service to the Hispanic community.

THE GUATEMALAN ELECTIONS

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 3, 1996

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, the participation of citizens in free and fair elections, and their faith in the legitimacy of the subsequent electoral results, are fundamental to all democracies. No participatory democracy is able to survive if its citizens do not have faith in the electoral process. To be able to ensure that democracy continues to take root and flourish throughout the Western Hemisphere, we must do all within our power to encourage the development of conditions that inspire faith in electoral processes throughout the Americas.

To that end, as it attempted to do in Haiti, the Clinton administration should do what it can to ensure to the Guatemalan people, that the second round of elections scheduled to